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October 1, 2004

South Carolina Public Service Commission
Synergy Business Park, The Saluda Building
101 Executive Center Drive
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

*RE: Proceeding to Establish Guidelines for an Intrastate Universal Service Fund
Docket No. 97-239-C*

Attn Docketing Department:

I am writing on behalf of Bluffton Telephone Company, Hargray Telephone Company, Home Telephone Company, Horry Telephone Cooperative and PBT Telecom to request an extension of time in which to comply with Commission Order No. 2004-452 in the above-referenced docket. We have not yet received a copy of the order by certified mail. However, parties of record were provided with a courtesy copy by electronic mail yesterday, September 30, 2004. The order grants the Petitioning LECs' respective requests for additional State USF funding and approves the proposed tariffs filed by the Petitioning LECs, effective upon implementation of the State USF funding to offset the tariff reductions proposed by the Petitioning LECs. The order goes on to state: "The Commission will implement the additional State USF funding approved here as soon as feasible, and not later than October 1, 2004."

In that it is not feasible to implement State USF funding by today, as the order directs, we respectfully request additional time in which to comply with the order by implementing tariff reductions. We believe the Commission will likewise need additional time to make additional State USF funding available, and the order directs that the tariff reductions will be effective simultaneously with the availability of State USF funding "consistent with the revenue neutrality principle of the State USF guidelines." We will coordinate with the Commission Staff as necessary on the appropriate timing of funding availability and effective dates for tariff reductions to effectuate the Commission's order. We believe a time period of 30 to 60 days would be sufficient to implement the directives of Order No. 2004-452.

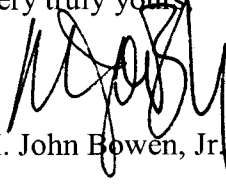
Therefore, we respectfully request that the Commission allow the parties an extension of time, not to exceed 60 days, in which to implement the directives of Commission Order No. 2004-452.

October 1, 2004

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Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,



M. John Bowen, Jr.

cc: Parties of Record (via email)
George N. Dorn, Jr. (via email)
Florence P. Belser, Esquire (via email)
James E. Spearman, Ph.D. (via email)
F. David Butler, Esquire (via email)